

Service and other medical prepayment plans, "Yank" Chandler was selected as one physician whose integrity was above reproach as chairman of that important group. The committee, promptly dubbed the "Chandler Committee," is still known by that name.

In working on the problems before the special committee, Dr. Chandler brought forward the same attributes which he has constantly displayed as a medical dean. He insisted on truth, clarity, thoroughness and objectivity. His committee interviewed literally hundreds of experts, seeking opinions and philosophies. It called on physicians, businessmen, labor representatives, hospital and medical plan administrators and numerous others who could be expected to contribute to a broad review of a vital subject. The results of this inquiry were condensed into the committee's final report, which was accepted by the House of Delegates as a complete, accurate and up-to-the-minute finding in a field currently under political as well as public pressure.

As an educator, Dr. Chandler has established

himself in a preeminent position of national significance. As a teacher of surgery he has impressed his own skill and knowledge on numerous students who are making their own marks today. He has impressed on a number of generations of young physicians in California the need for active participation in the California Medical Association and community affairs. As a surgeon he has demonstrated great ability particularly in the field of pediatric surgery in which he has had great interest. As an Association member, he has set a high standard of integrity, thoroughness and capacity which is seldom matched in medical organizations. As a man he has become much loved and everywhere respected and admired.

Stanford has a large pair of shoes to fill in replacing "Yank" Chandler. Medical practice and the public will gain from the medical school's loss in securing a greater share of his time and capacity. The medical profession welcomes into the ranks of active practitioners this surgeon who has so distinguished himself in allied fields.

LETTERS to the Editor . . .

Editor, CALIFORNIA MEDICINE:

You may be interested in the enclosed opinion of the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in the case of U. S. vs. Hoxsey Cancer Clinic, a Partnership, and Harry M. Hoxsey, an Individual. This opinion is the result of an appeal in a vigorously contested case tried in the U. S. District Court at Dallas, Texas. It reverses the judgment of the trial Judge (William H. Atwell, N. Dist. of Texas) and directs that court to issue an injunction prohibiting the defendants from distributing in interstate commerce brownish-black, and pink, liquids intended for the treatment of cancer in man.

In many parts of the country, people are taking the Hoxsey medicines in the belief that they may be an effective treatment for cancer. Friends and relatives of cancer victims frequently query local physicians concerning this treatment. You may wish to publish information about this case so that physicians will have the facts at hand concerning these drugs, in the event of such inquiries.

The following important principles are laid down in the Circuit Court opinion, based on testimony by cancer experts.

1. "... there is only one reliable and accurate means of determining whether what is thought to be cancer is, in truth and fact, actually cancer. This requires a biopsy, a microscopic examination of a piece of tissue removed from the infected and diseased region."

2. "... the opinion of a layman as to whether he has, or had, cancer, or a like opinion as to whether he has been cured and no longer bears the disease, if, in fact, it ever actually existed, is entitled to little, if any, weight."

3. "... despite the vast and continuous research which has been conducted into the cause of, and possible cure for, cancer the aggregate of medical experience and qualified experts recognize in the treatment of internal cancer only the methods of surgery, x-ray, radium and some of the radioactive by-products of atomic bomb production."

4. "... Upon such subjects a court should not be so blind and deaf as to fail to see, hear and understand the import and effect of such matters of general public knowledge and acceptance, especially where they are established by the overwhelming weight of disinterested testimony . . ."

The Hoxsey Clinic is located in Dallas, Texas, and ships its drugs to patients in many other states. According to the unanimous opinion of the Court of Appeals, consisting of Judges Russell, Hutcheson, and Rives, "the overwhelming weight of the credible evidence requires a conclusion that the representation that the Hoxsey liquid medicines are efficacious in the cure of cancer is . . . false and misleading. The evidence as a whole does not support the finding of the trial court that 'some it cures, and some it does not cure, and some it relieves somewhat'."

Under the law the defendants still have the right to petition for review by the U. S. Supreme Court.

C. W. CRAWFORD, *Commissioner of Food and Drugs*